



Air Force News Archive



B-1B Lancer (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds) | [High-Res Version of this photo](#)

Defense Department plans B-1 reduction

07/06/01 - **WASHINGTON (AFPN)** -- Last week, the Defense Department announced its approval of an Air Force initiative to reduce its B-1 bomber inventory from 93 to 60 aircraft.

After the reduction, the remaining fleet from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho; Robins AFB, Ga.; and McConnell AFB, Kan., will be consolidated at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and Dyess AFB, Texas. This consolidation will enable the Air Force to enhance and maintain the combat capability of the remaining 60 aircraft.

To better understand the unit-level perspective of the reduction and consolidation of its B-1 Lancer fleet, the Air Force has established a team led by Lt. Gen. Joseph H. Wehrle Jr., the deputy chief of staff for plans and programs. Other team members come from Air Force headquarters, Air Combat Command and the Air National Guard. The team plans to visit Air Force installations affected by the B-1 plan.

"The purpose of our trip is to obtain and provide first-hand information about how removal of the B-1 will affect Mountain Home, Robins and McConnell Air Force Bases and their surrounding communities," Wehrle said. "We also

More AF News

[USAF News](#)
[AF Link Plus](#)
[AF TV News](#)
[AF Press Releases](#)
[AF Radio News](#)
[Airman Magazine](#)
[Base Newspapers](#)
[E-mail subscription](#)
[Feedback](#)

Major Command

[Air Combat Command](#)
[Air Education and Training Command](#)
[Air Force Materiel Command](#)
[Air Mobility Command](#)
[Air Force Space Command](#)
[Air Force Personnel Center](#)
[Air Force Reserve Air Force Special Operations Command](#)
[Air National Guard](#)
[DefenseLink News](#)
[US Air Forces in Europe](#)
[Pacific Air Forces](#)

Defense News

[DefenseLink News](#)
[Retiree News](#)

need to assess how the consolidation of the remaining B-1s at Ellsworth and Dyess will affect those bases."

Wehrle and his team will talk with the leadership of B-1 units about the Air Force's plan to provide the United States a more capable B-1 force.

"We want them to know we will do what we can to address their concerns," the general said. "We also want them to understand our need to streamline the B-1 force. We will use the information we obtain to determine the best way to implement this plan."

The Air Force's B-1 fleet reduction and consolidation efforts will be a phased plan taking much of fiscal 2002 to complete.

Wehrle said the Air Force's top priority is to provide the United States with a more capable B-1 force. Savings incurred from the B-1 reduction and consolidation will be used to modernize the remaining fleet, leading to an increased war-time punch, greater survivability against increasingly more complex air defense systems, higher mission-capable rates, and easier maintainability.

RELATED LINKS

[- B1-B Lancer](#)

News Archive

2001: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
2000: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
1999: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
1998: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
1997: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
1996: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)
1995: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)



Please read the security and privacy notice

[Top>](#)